LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 722. Tirana, April 19, 1933.

Confidential.

SUBJECT: The Proposed Pact of Friendship and Non-aggression between the Little Entente and Albania.

SA
May 19, 1933

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
APR 18 1933
WESTERN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

770.751 1/1

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TREATY DIVISION
MAY 19 1933
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

770.00/251

Referring to my despatch No. 719 of April 19th, I have the honor to report a conversation with Dr. Leo Vokaç, the Czechoslovak Chargé d'Affaires, regarding the proposed plan for a Pact of Friendship and Non-aggression between the Little Entente and Albania. He said that both the Yugoslav Minister and the Rumanian Minister had gone home for the holidays for the purpose of discussing this proposed pact, and that he had also communicated with his Government, but had thus far received no instructions in this matter. Vokac said that

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that Buzdugan recently returned from Geneva where he had met Titulescu who instructed him to elaborate with the Czech and Yugoslav representatives a plan for the proposed pact. He said he did not know whether Titulescu suggested the plan or whether it was Buzdugan's own initiative.

Respectfully yours,

Herman Bernstein.

Herman Bernstein.

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Prague and E.I.C.

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NOTE

770.751 1/2

SEE 770.00/251 FOR #719

FROM Albania (Bernstein) DATED April 11, 1933
TO NAME

1—1127 O P O

REGARDING:

Proposed plan for pact of friendship and non-aggression between the Little Entente and Albania.

Informs of conversation with the Yugoslav Minister concerning -.

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No. 719. Tirana, April 11, 1935.

Confidential.

SUBJECT: Proposed Plan for Pact of Friendship and Non-aggression between the Little Entente and Albania.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report a conversation with M. Djonoviteh, the Yugoslav Minister, in which he informed me that he was going to Belgrade for the Easter holidays and that, before leaving Tirana, he inquired whether King Zog desired to see him or to convey through him a message for King Alexander or the Belgrade Government. Djonoviteh was informed that, owing to a slight indisposition, the King could not receive him just now, but would be glad to see him shortly after his return to Tirana.

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"For four months the King promised to tell me what he expected from our Government", said Djonovitch, "but thus far he only listened to what I had to say to Him."

Djonovitch expressed himself as being greatly pleased with King Zog's "daring" policy which affected the Italian schools in Albania. He believed this was symptomatic of an entirely new political orientation in Albania.

Then Djonovitch spoke confidentially about a plan proposed by the Rumanian Minister to the other representatives of the Little Entente in Tirana. He said that Buzdugan, the Rumanian Minister, had informed him and Dr. Vokac, the Czechoslovak Chargé d'Affaires, that Titulescu had sent for him and told him of complaints to the effect that he, Buzdugan, had failed to co-operate with the other representatives of the Little Entente at Tirana. He said that he had now received definite instructions to work jointly with the Yugoslav and Czechoslovak representatives and to elaborate together with them a plan for a pact of friendship and non-agression between the Little Entente and Albania. Djonovitch said he told the Rumanian Minister he would have to communicate with his Government before submitting any such project to the Albanian Government, and he asked the Rumanian Minister not to discuss this matter before receiving definite instructions from their respective Governments. Djonovitch said he intended to take this question up with Mr. Yeftitch during his stay in Belgrade. He said Dr. Vokac also promised to communicate with his

Government

Government before joining the others in any proposal to be submitted to the Albanian Government.

Djonovitch added he was not quite sure that Buzdugan had really received instructions from Titulescu regarding the proposed plan, and described Busdugan as irresponsible and "too friendly with the Italian Minister and his wife".

Djonovitch concluded by saying he was convinced that serious trouble had been averted by the precautionary measures taken on both sides of the Albano-Yugoslav frontiers as a result of the alarming reports about Italy's efforts to engineer a frontier incident which might have inflamed the Balkans and drawn Europe into a new war.

Respectfully yours,

Herman Bernstein.

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Bucharest and L.I.C.

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LEGATION OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 748. Tirana, May 12, 1933.

Confidential.

MAY 31 33

SUBJECT: The Little Entente in Tirana.

TREATY DIVISION
JUN 13 1933
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIV. COM. & REC.

JUN 14

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

770.7511/3

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

Referring to my despatch No. 722, of April 19, I have the honor to report that the Czechoslovak Chargé d'Affaires, Dr. Vokaç, called at the Legation and talked about the proposed Pact of Alliance and Non-aggression between Albania and the Little Entente, and expressed his views on Yugoslavia's present flirtation with Albania.

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JUN 21 1933

Dr. Vokaç said:

"I have not yet received any instruction from Dr. Benes regarding my inquiry about the Pact of Friendship and non-aggression between Albania and the Little Entente, which

which the Rumanian Minister had proposed to me and to the Yugoslav Minister in Tirana.

"We discussed the proposal here and agreed not to talk about it before we received authorization from our Governments to submit the plan to the Albanian Government. I pointed out to my colleagues that we would place ourselves in a ridiculous position if we discussed this matter with others and then received instructions from our Governments not to submit any such plan to the Albanian Government. But I have learned that the Rumanian Minister has already mentioned this plan to various people. He is absolutely untrustworthy.

"The Rumanian Minister, Buzdugan, said that Titulescu had told him he would issue instructions to all his representatives abroad to co-operate demonstratively with the other representatives of the Little Entente everywhere, to show their solidarity on all questions. He said that he, Buzdugan, suggested the proposed Pact of Friendship and Non-aggression between the Little Entente and Albania. He remarked that at first Titulescu was of the opinion that it was useless to bother about Albania, but that he has now changed his attitude and believes that something should be undertaken to bring Albania into closer contact with the Little Entente.

"I communicated with our Foreign Office, but have received no answer thus far. M. Djonovitch went to Belgrade to discuss this matter with Yeftitich. Yeftitch told him not to write him about this matter, nor to talk about it to anyone. He said he would discuss this question

with

with Benes and Titulescu at the end of this month in Prague.

"The plan is to suggest to the Albanian Government to sign a Treaty of Friendship and Non-aggression with the Little Entente, and if that is inopportune at this time, a suggestion is to be made to Albania to sign such a Treaty with one of the powers of the Little Entente."

Commenting on M. Djonovitch's promises to King Zog, Dr. Vokaç said, in strictest confidence, as follows:

"I do not trust the Yugoslavs. I am sure the Yugoslavs still distrust Zog and cannot forgive his betrayal. They are Balkanites after all. I fear they are playing with Zog, trying to make him believe they will come to his aid in time of need. They are endeavoring to alienate him from Italy, and then they will betray him, too. I am convinced that Yugoslavia has not yet abandoned her aspirations to get certain parts of Albania. Djonovitch on one occasion said to me that the Albanians were nothing but filth and should be swept into the sea. I suspect Djonovitch's frequent visits to Scutari and Montenegro. I hope the Yugoslavs don't commit any further blunders."

Dr. Vokaç said that, according to information he had received from the Czechoslovak Legation in Rome, it is rumored that Mussolini is disgusted with King Zog, that he has another candidate for the Albanian throne, and that he is planning to build up a greater Albania, which is to include Montenegro, with a Montenegrin Prince

as

as King. He said it is believed in Rome that this accounts for King Zog's firm anti-Italian stand.

Respectfully yours,

Herman Bernstein.

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NOTE

SEE 775.00/17 FOR Despatch # 751.

FROM Albania (Bernstein) DATED May 18, 1933.

TO NAME

1—1127 ers

REGARDING:

Titulescu reported as approving the project of proposing to Albania a Pact of Friendship and Non-aggression with the Little Entente.

775.751/4

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No. 751. Tirana, May 18, 1933.

Confidential.

SUBJECT: France, the Little Entente and Albania.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State,

Washington.

Sir:

I have the honor to report a conversation with Dr. Vokaç, the Czechoslovak Chargé d'Affaires, in the course of which he said as follows:

"The French Minister, Baron Degrand, told me that the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Djafer Villa, had informed him that Albania was on the point of severing friendly relations with Italy. Villa said the King and Cabinet were considering this step. Then he asked Degrand how such a move would be regarded by other powers, by France, for instance. Degrand answered that

such

such a move would indicate that Albania intends to come into closer and more friendly contact with Yugoslavia, with the Little Entente. He said that Rumania was always friendly toward Albania, that Czechoslovakia was seriously working for peace and exerting a good influence on Yugoslavia, thus preventing her from embarking on dangerous adventures. Therefore a closer contact with the Little Entente would be of benefit to Albania. And he added that if Albania co-operated with the Little Entente, France would naturally be very pleased, and might also be helpful.

"The Rumanian Minister, who has recently returned from Bucharest, told me that he had met Titulescu who approved the project of proposing to Albania a Pact of Friendship and Non-aggression with the Little Entente, that Titulescu had already talked with the Yugoslav Foreign Minister, Yeftitch, who also approved the plan, but that the matter had not yet been discussed with Dr. Benes. Titulescu told him that he would meet Benes in Prague at the end of May at the Little Entente conference, and would then discuss the proposed plan with him. Titulescu said that for about two or three months nothing must be undertaken with Albania for the reason that Rumania and Italy are about to renew their Pact of Friendship in June, and that if negotiations were started now by the Little Entente with Albania, Italy would regard them as an unfriendly move on the part of Rumania, and may decline to renew the Pact of Friendship. Titulescu, according to Buzdugan, said that shortly after

the

the signing of the Pact of Friendship between Rumania and Italy, the Little Entente would make a proposal to Albania to sign a general Pact of Friendship and Non-aggression, and if not with all the three powers, at least with one of them, as a beginning."

Respectfully yours,

Herman Bernstein.

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NOTE

770.7511/5

SEE 875.51/168 FOR #788

FROM Albania (Bernstein) DATED June 20,1933

TO NAME 1—1127

REGARDING: Pact of friendship and non-aggression between Albania and the Little Entente.
Statement by Dr. Leon Vokac, Czechoslovak Charge d'Affaires, that the French Minister favors the project for the --, provided an opportune moment was chosen for such a proposal.

Central File: Decimal File 770.7511, Political Relations Of States, Relations; Bi-Lateral Treaties., Political., Balkan States And Albania, War. Peace. Friendship. Alliance. Non-Aggression., April 11, 1933 - June 20, 1933. April 11, 1933 - June 20, 1933. MS Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States: Records of the U.S. Department of State, 1930-1944: Records of the Department of State Relating to Political Relations of Turkey, Greece, and the Balkan States, 1930-1939. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5111393571%2FGDSC%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC. Accessed 20 June 2025.